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Docket No.: 50340-110

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Takashi HOSOTANI, et al.

Serial No.: 09/977,405

Group Art Unit: 3617

Filed: October 16, 2001

Examiner: Long Nguyen

For: AXLE SUPPORTING STRUCTURE FOR INDUSTRIAL VEHICLES

**RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action of November 21, 2002 in this application. In the action, election was required between the patentably distinct species identified as those of inventions I through VII. In response to this requirement, application elects Species G, invention VII, directed to Figs. 18-20. Claim 15 is considered readable on the elected specie. The requirement for election is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

This election requirement is a holding that the different embodiments or alternatives disclosed in the present application represents separate inventions. Applicant submits that this is an error. The present application presents a single generic inventive concept for the axle supporting structure disclosed in the application. It is therefore submitted that all claims should be considered on their merits and that the various embodiments should not be considered as separate inventions. Accordingly, reconsideration of the requirement for election is respectfully requested.

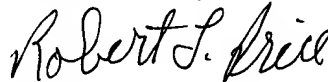
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It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and action on the merits is now in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Date: March 21, 2003**